

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Applicant has received and carefully considered the Office Action dated June 29, 2007.

Claim 1 is hereby canceled without prejudice of or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. No claims are added. Accordingly, claims 2-7 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-7 are allowed.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office's response to the arguments filed on April 5, 2007. *Office Action* at §§ 1-2. However, to advance the application to allowance, Applicant has canceled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Office rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. *Office Action* at §§ 3-4. Applicant has canceled claim 1, accordingly the rejection is moot.

The Office rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. *Office Action* at §§ 5-6. Applicant has canceled claim 1, accordingly the rejection is moot.

The Office rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6, 257,027 to *Imai* either alone (§102/103) or in view of (§103) either U.S. Patent No. 4,418,712 to *Brale* (hereinafter "*Brale* '712"), U.S. Patent No. 4,380,243 to *Brale* (hereinafter "*Brale* '243"), U.S. Patent No. 5,713,385 to *Traylor* (hereinafter "*Traylor* '385"), U.S. Patent No. 5,592,964 to *Traylor* (hereinafter "*Traylor* '964"), U.S. Patent No. 5,199,455 to *Dlouhy* (hereinafter "*Dlouhy*"), U.S. Patent No. 4,151,864 to *Thurman* (hereinafter "*Thurman*"), or U.S. Patent No. 2,593,752 to *Haberstump* (hereinafter "*Haberstump*"). *Office Action* at §§ 7-9. Applicant has canceled claim 1, accordingly the rejection is moot.

The Office rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,609,264 to *Ruhl* either alone (§102/103) or in view of (§103) either *Braley '712*, *Braley '243*, *Traylor '385*, *Traylor '964*), *Dlouhy*, *Thurman*, or *Haberstump*. Office Action at §§ 10-11. Applicant has canceled claim 1, accordingly the rejection is moot.

As stated above, claim 1 was cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, to advance the application to allowance. Claims 2-7 are allowed.


The application is in condition for allowance, a Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: September 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By  (Reg. No. 46,522)
for **Mark R. Kresloff**
Registration No.: 42,766
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant